

Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council Minutes

Superior Government Center, Superior WI

July 21, 2005

Attendance:

Voting members: Bob Brush, Matt Duvall, Jeff Edgar, Leif Hubbard, Dave Liska, Ken Ottman, Dan Traas and Dick Welch

Ex – officio, non-voting members: Dick Rideout

Non-voting guests: Cindy Casey, DNR; Louise Levy; Duluth Tree Commission; Dan Maderich, city of Ashland; Mary Morgan, city of Superior; Dave Ross, mayor, city of Superior; Hugo Salmi, Superior Tree Board; Stacy Schaefer, Sigurd Olsen Institute; Jean Till, Superior Tree Board

Absent members: Bruce Allison, Tim Bauknecht, Lisa Burban, Bob Dahl, John Gall, Wayne Glowac, Jeff Gorman, Laura Jull, Mike Maddox, Heather Mann, Mike Michlig, Bob Skiera, Joan Stevens, Joe Wilson,

Meeting Minutes

1) CALL TO ORDER – *Dave Liska*

- a. Meeting called to order at 9:42 am. The chair noted that there was not a quorum so no official business could be conducted.
- b. The minutes of the May 18th meeting were reviewed and approval recommended.

2) WELCOME TO SUPERIOR – *Dick Welch*

- a. Dick Welch introduced the Superior mayor the Honorable Mr. Dave Ross. Mayor Ross welcomed the council and spoke to Superior's commitment to greenspace. They are working on a new landscape ordinance and he highlighted a new development that includes a trail system, trees and greenspace. The mayor invited council members to stay and visit the community.
- b. Dave Liska read the purpose of the council and described its goals. Council members and guests introduced themselves.
- c. Dave Liska invited the guests to describe their programs and ask questions of the council. A discussion of the Duluth, Ashland, Superior and Sigurd Olsen Environmental Institute ensued.

3) DNR REPORT – *Dick Rideout, Cindy Casey*

A. Financial Report - Council financial report was distributed and reviewed and approval was recommended. Dick Rideout noted that this is the beginning of the next fiscal year and invited the council and its committees to look beyond the same budget that we've had for many years and propose new ideas.

B. DNR Report - Dick reported on key activities going on including:

1. the 16 page color supplement to the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine designed to encourage community leaders to "Grow a Legacy" for themselves by supporting management of their urban forest.
2. This year's annual urban forestry workshops will be on the identification and control of invasive plants in the urban forest.
3. The budget signed by the Governor funded the overtime, invasives initiative and Forestry Education Center that the council had supported in its letter to Secretary Hassett. The Governor also didn't veto the restoration of 34.75 FTEs to the Forestry program. This should allow for the opportunity to recruit to fill the vacant Southeast Region Urban Forestry Coordinator also requested in the letter to the Secretary. Moving the urban forestry grant manager to the Forestry Division didn't happen, however, the position is now funded by state dollars and despite it being administratively in the Customer and Employee Services Division (CAES), it will remain housed and supervised in the Forestry Division.

4. In an editorial comment, Dick noted the large forestry initiative that was introduced independently by the Joint Committee on Finance. It included \$4.1 million in new funding and \$5.3 million in programs to be funded by timber sales on state forest lands. This was initiated by legislators interested in supporting the forest industries in Wisconsin and shows the scale of things that advocacy can do. Urban foresters need to set their sights higher. Ken Ottman noted that the Wisconsin Council on Forestry advised against a couple of the components of this initiative as being bad policy. [Exec Sec note: FYI since the meeting I found out that the Governor vetoed the timber sale appropriation and \$2.4 million of the new money, but left \$1.7 million of the new funds requested in this initiative]

5. Quarterly Accomplishment Reports – due to the resignation of Nathan Eisner, the quarterly reports are not complete. Dick will get these out to council members as soon as possible.

C. Personnel Status - With the departure of Nathan Eisner, we are looking to hire two LTEs. Position descriptions are being developed which will provide for more staff time for the council. The vacant Southeast Region UF Coordinator Position still has not been put forward by Forestry to fill.

D. Regional Coordinator's Report – Cindy Casey introduced herself as the new representative of the regional coordinators to the council. Regional coordinator activities are posted in the quarterly reports and she invited council members to ask any questions or share any concerns.

4) NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT – *Jeff Edgar*

Jeff Edgar noted that we have 3 vacancies due to resignations. He will be working on recruiting new members and invited nominations. He passed around the resume of Logan Nelson for the council to review for possible nomination. A question was posed on how the nomination process works. Dick replied that there is no formal nomination form. Nominations with a description of the person and their interest in serving on the council are submitted to Jeff. In addition, Nathan was working on a position description for council members to help prospective members understand their responsibilities. This will be completed as soon as possible pending hiring of Nathan's replacement.

5) REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – *Dave Liska*

A. EAB Task Force - Dave Liska described the 2 simulations of the draft Emergency Response Plan for an introduction of the emerald ash borer. A scenario of a Northern National Forest campground introduction and a scenario of a southeast suburban introduction were run. Members of federal and state agencies the university and the industry participated. These simulations generated many questions and resulted in a "to do" list for further revision. A more extensive simulation will be held in September to test the new revision.

B. Cabinet meeting - Dave described the meeting of the Executive Committee and the committee chairs (dubbed "the cabinet") held after the May council meeting. Prior to this meeting the group had been asked to look at the council committee charges and structure and to recommend changes. The results are as follows:

Annual Conference Committee – Recommended maintaining the committee, but focusing only on educational program. Any other conferences or events, such as the Tree City USA Workshop and Banquet would be managed by ad hoc committees appointed by the chair.

Nominating Committee – Recommended splitting into "Nomination and Orientation" and "Awards"

Action: 1) Jeff Edgar will provide the chair with the duties of the Awards committee

2) The chair will appoint an ad hoc Awards committee until the full council approves a Bylaws change

Communication Committee – Prior to this council meeting, Heather Mann submitted a public relations plan that she proposed this committee manage. Consensus was that this was a good plan, but the Communication committee still needed a definition and duties. Comments included: council needs to decide whether an annual report was still appropriate; this will be a huge committee and will need active participation; PR plan needs prioritization; Recommendation: New definition, duties and possible subcommittees need to be provided for the bylaws.

Action: 1) Dave Liska will contact Heather to complete this recommendation.

6) REPORT FROM JOE WILSON

A. The Governors Conference follow-up is continuing. We have a new WIDNR coordinator that will be assisting us. The group is currently prioritizing the input and will be meeting again to set further direction.

B. The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) is accepting nominations to fill six positions on the Council. Anyone interested should contact Suzy Del Villar at 909-585-9268. (Exec sec note: Dick Rideout also has the nomination papers. Deadline for receipt of the nominations is September 30, 2005). These positions are:

Three-year terms –

Person representing forest products, nursery, or related industries;

Person representing academic institutions with an expertise in urban and community forestry activities

Person who is not an officer or employee of any governmental body who is a resident of a community with a population of more than 50,000 and has expertise and has been active in urban and community forestry

Remaining 2 years of a vacant 3-year term -

Person representing a national nonprofit forestry and conservation citizen organization

Remaining year of a vacant 3-year term -

Person representing city/town government

Person who is not an officer or employee of any governmental body who is a resident of a community with a population of less than 50,000 and has expertise and has been active in urban and community forestry

C. The City of Milwaukee and Greening Milwaukee hosted an urban forestry field tour in cooperation with the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation on urban forest operations and non profit partnerships. During the tour Kathy Esposito found out the Wisconsin Public Television just finished filming a segment on Milwaukee urban forestry for its Discover Wisconsin show which will air sometime this fall.

7) 2006 TREE CITY USA BANQUET

Dave Liska reported that Jeff Gorman, Matt Duval and Mike Maddox are chairing Exhibitors, Workshops and Registration committees respectively. Rest of the committees need to be filled in ASAP.

Matt Duval reported that his committee included Jeff Roe and Bob Brush. Preliminary suggestions for the three workshop titles are: Creative Funding; Impact Beyond the Streets (i.e. private property); and Marketing UF to Local Officials. He noted that these are not cast even in Silly Putty, and invited comments and suggestions for alternatives.

Cindy Casey presented alternatives for the gift to be presented to conference participants that Tracy Salisbury had collected. Consensus was immediately reached to recommend the engraved walnut pen. Suggested engraving included the TCUSA logo and possibly the date.

Action: Dick Rideout was requested to produce a flow chart of duties and actions for the conference committees.

9) WISCONSIN FORESTRY COUNCIL REPORT – Ken Ottman

Ken Ottman described the proposal by the Wisconsin Council on Forestry Invasives Leadership Team Chair Fred Clark to produce Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Invasive Species in Wisconsin Forests (this was emailed to all UF council members prior to the meeting). Ken proposed that the UF council take the lead on the Urban Forestry BMP for Invasive Species. Significant discussion ensued about the logistics. The conclusion was that if the council didn't do it, who would? It was also clear that it would require a small group of the council to develop a plan for completing this that could include recommending contracting for consultants, involvement of other individuals from member organizations, DNR staff time, etc.

Recommendation: Council undertake this proposal

Action:

1. Chair will invite Fred Clark and Paul DeLong to the November meeting to discuss the issue and the support the DNR can provide.
2. Ken Ottman will provide Dick with questions he has on the project.
3. Dick will distribute Ken's questions to the council, request additional questions and he and Ken will get as many answers to these questions as possible prior to the November meeting.

10) NEW BUSINESS

A. USDA Forest Service Report – Lisa Burban (written submission)

National Activities:

1. NUCFAC developing national 10 year action plan
 - Please be informed and respond if you are asked for feedback and input.
2. USFS is working to formalize the U&CF Program Direction document
 - Document articulates roles and responsibilities, program standards, guidelines for subgrants, information regarding performance and funding.
3. USFS finalizing U&CF Allocation process
 - Remember, bottom line for performance is to show an increasing percentage of the population in America that is living in cities that manage and care for their trees.
 - Base allocation at \$200,000 seems likely

Midwest Information:

1. American Forests National Urban Forestry Conference, Charlotte, NC – “Nature at your Service.”
2. ISA 2006 will be in Minneapolis (July 29 through August 2, 2006)
3. Midwest Invasive Plant Network (www.mipn.org) – see attached page for background information on this new group.

Technology Transfer Update:

1. Tree Benefits compendium (2 disc package), includes:
 - Summary of the ITree results from Minneapolis
 - Compilation of information, resources and tools to convey the benefits of trees
 - Trees Pay Us Back brochure (Midwest general version)
2. Center request for proposals will soon be distributed

FYI – The following is info about a regional resource: The Midwest Invasive Plant Network

The goal of the Midwest Invasive Plant Network is to: "Address the problem of invasive plants and their threat to the Midwest's economy, environment, and human health by providing leadership, facilitating information development and exchange, and coordinating regional efforts."

Established: First informational meeting October 2003

Number of Members: No formal membership yet. Original members or "contacts" = 103. Steering Committee = 25.

Structure: No formal organization currently. Regional. All Midwestern States (MN, WI, IA, IL, IN, OH, MO, MI), with representatives from PA and Washington DC on Steering Committee. Does not currently have nonprofit status.

Meetings: Steering Committee meets twice per year and adds conference call meetings as necessary. Committees meet on ad hoc basis. Annual member informational meeting planned for each year at the Natural Areas Association Conference.

Committees: Current Administrative Committees include - Steering and Fundraising. Current Action Committees include - Education, Communication, Science/Research, Early Detection/Rapid Response and Data Management, and Green Industry.

Newsletter: No newsletter yet, but electronic version planned for January 2005. Listserv established October 2003, current membership = 65 (MIPN@yahoogroups.com).

Website: Domains = www.mipn.org or www.midwestinvasiveplantnetwork.org.

Funding: Under a funding partnership with grants from the USDA Forest Service Eastern Region, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Dow Chemical Company Foundation and Dow AgroSciences, a private family foundation, and contributions from the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy supports the administration activities of the group.

Contact: Kate Howe info@mipn.org
Midwest Invasive Plant Network Coordinator
Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy
1505 N. Delaware St. #200
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Phone 317-951-8818
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B. Meeting attendance: Dick Rideout spoke (ranted actually) to the topic. Given that the last two summer meetings did not have a quorum, the council should discuss meeting attendance at the November meeting and explore why members are not attending and what to do about it so that council business can be carried out.

Action: Chair will put meeting attendance on the November agenda

C. Urban Forestry and the Urban Wildland Interface Fire: Bob Brush brought up the topic of what the relationship should be between urban forestry and Urban Wildland Interface regarding fire. DNR has a specific staff member, Jolene Ackerman, covering Urban Wildland Interface fire prevention. Bob will explore this with her.

D. Annual Conference:

Action: Dan Traas requested council members provide him with ideas for speakers at the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Annual Conference in Green Bay in February 2006

E. TCUSA Speaker

Action: Jeff Edgar would like council member ideas for a keynote speaker for the TCUSA Banquet.

11) FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the council will be in Madison on Wednesday November 30, 2005.

Council adjourned to visit and walk Superior's Millennium Trail.